



wisconsin department of
children & families

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200

P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

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Contact: Joe Scialfa, 608.266.9000

Child Care Provider Pleads Guilty to Fraud

Kelly Martin, owner of Siren Children's Center, LLC, in Siren, Wisconsin, has pled guilty in Burnett County circuit court to defrauding the Wisconsin Shares program. In response to pleading guilty to the Class I felony theft charge, Martin has made an upfront restitution payment of \$10,000, and then was placed on probation for 3 years and ordered to repay an additional \$14,000 to the Department of Children and Families.

"Kelly Martin's guilty plea is the result of hard work and collaboration between the Department of Children and Families and law enforcement agencies statewide to aggressively pursue those who commit child care fraud in the Wisconsin Shares program," said Eloise Anderson, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families. "Fraudulent providers such as Ms. Martin drain scarce resources and tarnish the image of all day care providers who operate legally and provide a much needed service to their communities."

Milwaukee County Assistant District Attorney David Feiss was appointed as special prosecutor for Burnett County in this case, building on the efforts of the Milwaukee Child Care Anti-Fraud Task Force. The task force is led by the Department of Children and Families and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, which works collaboratively to investigate and prosecute child care fraud.

Governor Walker and the Department of Children and Families are committed to ensuring that public funds are used only by those who are honestly working to provide important services to Wisconsin families.

By tackling fraud in Wisconsin Shares, the Department of Children and Families has saved taxpayers over \$148 million.

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